

**Tamworth Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting on January 18th, 2012
MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present: Dennis Quinn, Pat Farley, Willie Farnum, Kristin Ludwig, Keats Myer, Karen McNiff, John Howell

This meeting was called to discuss the organization of an event to help generate business ideas.

The desired outcome of the event was discussed. EDT would like to see concrete business ideas to develop, networking between attendees, and an idea of the help people would need in order to take the next steps in creating a business.

There was brief discussion of doing an event to help existing businesses expand or diversify first. But it was decided to appeal to both existing businesses and to new ideas.

The types of people EDT would target to attend this event would be current business owners who want to expand or diversify, entrepreneurial types with ideas for a new business, and community members, among others.

The idea of encouraging businesses to work with one another was discussed.

After initial event to generate ideas, EDT is looking at additional events to look more specifically at the steps needed to create/expand/diversify a business. "Steps needed to realize your business dreams."

Pat mentioned that if the LRPC decides to go forward as an economic district, grants funneled through CEDS could benefit Tamworth projects.

Details of the event were decided on as follows:

Name: The BIG Event (Business Idea Generator)

Join us for a conversation of business development in the Tamworth Area

Date: April 21, 2012

Time: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Location: Townhouse

Refreshments: Coffee and light food

Publicity: Article in The Sun. Posters. Blurbs in Tamworth Exchange. Personal invitations.

Facilitator: TBD

Event Agenda:

1. Briefly describe the Economic Development Commission.
2. Describe TamWireless's process as an example of a recent successful local business start up.
3. Facilitate the generation of ideas from the attendees. Keep conversations going. Bring groups together on one idea.
4. Describe next steps that will be presented at the next event for those that want to move forward.
5. Provide contact info for Economic Development Commissioners with brief bios.
6. Informal refreshment session at end.

EDT members were asked to bring publicity ideas to next scheduled meeting. A publicity sub-committee will move forward with ideas agreed upon.

A motion to move the regular EDT meetings to 11:30 a.m. at Lyceum was made by Kristin Ludwig, seconded by Keats Myer and passed unanimously. Meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of the month. Karen McNiff will change the automatic announcement on the Tamworth Exchange.

Next meeting will be on Feb 2nd, 11:30 a.m. at the Lyceum in Tamworth Village.

Motion to adjourn was made by Keats Myer, seconded by Dennis Quinn and approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 12:50 p.m.